



Lyon-Coffey Events

Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Letter From The Manager: A Christmas Story

Just last Christmas Eve, I had a strange visitor. This is how it happened:

I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door of the front room, and to my surprise, I saw Santa Claus himself stepping out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his fingers over his lips so I wouldn't cry out.

"What are you doing here?" I started to ask, but the words choked up in my throat as I saw that he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. As I stood there in my robe bewildered, Santa said, "We've done it all wrong. You need to teach the children." My perplexed expression still showed in the near darkness.

Fumbling in his sack, he drew forth a bright shining gold star.

"Teach them the old meaning of Christmas ~ the meanings that Christmas nowadays has forgotten. Teach the children that the star was a heavenly sign of promise long ago. God promised a Savior for the world and a sign of the fulfillment of that promise was the great Star of the East. The star now reminds us of God's love for mankind and of God fulfilling His promise. The countless shining stars at night now show the burning hope of all mankind."

Santa gently laid the star upon the fireplace mantle and drew forth from the bag a glittering red Christmas ornament.

"Teach the children, red is the first color of Christmas. It was first used by the faithful people to remind them of the blood which was shed for all people by the Savior. Jesus Christ gave his life and shed his blood that every man might have God's gift to all, eternal life. Red is deep, intense, vivid. It is the greatest color of all. It is the symbol of the gift of God."

As Santa was twisting and pulling another object out of his bag, I heard the kitchen clock begin to strike 12. I wanted to say something, but he went right on.

"Teach the children," he said as the twisting and pulling suddenly dislodged a small Christmas tree from the depths of the toy bag. He placed it before the mantle and gently hung the red ornament on the Christmas tree. The deep green of the Fir tree was perfect background for the ornament. Here was the second color of Christmas.

"The pure color of the stately Fir tree remains green all year round," he said. "This depicts the everlasting hope of mankind, and the everlasting life we can only get through His son. Green is the youthful, hopeful, abundant color of nature. All the needles point heavenward, symbolic of man's need to focus on heaven. The tree

itself is a symbol of that other tree, the one that became a cross.

The great, green tree has been one of man's best friends. It has sheltered him, warmed him, made beauty for him, and formed his furniture."

Santa's eyes were beginning to twinkle now as he stood there. Suddenly I heard a soft tinkling sound. As it grew louder, it seemed like the sound of long ago.

"Teach the children, that as the lost sheep are found by sounds of the bell, so should it ring for men to return to the fold; it means guidance and return to God; it further signifies that all are precious in the eyes of the Lord. He left the 99 and went in search of the one."

As the soft sound of the bell faded into the night, Santa drew forth a candle. He placed it on the mantle and the soft glow from its tiny flame cast an eerie glow about the darkened room. Odd shapes in the shadow slowly danced and weaved upon the walls.

"Teach the children," whispered Santa. "That the candle shows man's thanks for the star of long ago. It signifies the light that shines within all God's people. A light that should never be hidden. Its flame seems



Scott Whittington

very weak, but it chases away the darkness, just as the stars do. Its small light is the mirror of starlight. At first candles were placed on the Christmas Tree, they were like many glowing stars shining against the dark green. Safety now has removed the candles from the tree and the colored lights have taken over in remembrance.”

Santa then paused. He seemed to realize he should be on his way. Later would be his big day. As he looked about the room, a feeling of satisfaction and relief showed in his face. He reached into his bag and brought forth a large holly wreath.

He placed it on the fireplace and said, “Please teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of God’s love; it never ceases, stops or ends. It is one continuous round of affection. The wreath does double duty. It is made of many things and in many colors. It reminds us all of the things of Christmas. Please teach the children.”

Safety Tips to Keep the Holidays Bright

Some of the things that make holidays so special can also pose electrical and fire hazards if not handled with care.

Over 30 percent of home fires and injuries are caused by cooking, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. As you cook and bake this holiday season, remember the following tips to avoid shocks or fires:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good repair before using. Don’t use appliances with cracked or frayed cords.
- When purchasing new kitchen

As I gazed at the wreath, he slipped away, his job done... pointing people back to the real meaning behind this celebration.

I pondered and wondered and thrilled with delight, as I saw and viewed all those symbols that night.

I dozed as I sat in the soft candle light, and my thoughts were of Jesus and all He made right.

To give and to help, to love and to serve, are the best things of life, all men can deserve.

Old Santa Claus that jolly fat little elf, is not the best symbol of Christmas itself.

Jesus gave us the gift of love and of life, the ending of evil, the ceasing of strife.

Santa’s message to me on the pre-Christmas night, has opened a treasure of deepest insight.

The one thing on earth we all ought to do, is the teaching of children the right and the true.

Merry Christmas!

appliances, look for UL-Listed appliances with automatic shut-off features.

- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Keep cooking areas empty and devoid of grease.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing, and simmering foods.
- Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI’s) to prevent shocks.
- Always have a working fire extinguisher on hand, and know how to operate it.

Understanding the Cold Weather Rule

The Cold Weather Rule establishes disconnection procedures for any qualifying Kansas residential member of Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative throughout the cold weather period, which extends from November 15 through March 15. It does not mean that your electric bill can go unpaid during that time period or that your service will not be disconnected.

It does mean that the cooperative will not disconnect a member’s residential service between November 15 and March 15 when the local National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature will drop below 35° F within the following 24 hour period unless:

- It is at the member’s request;
- The service is abandoned;
- A dangerous condition exists on the member’s premises;
- The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative’s delivery system; or
- The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or use of meter bypass.

In any of those situations, the meter can be disconnected immediately.

During the cold weather period, the day prior to disconnection, the cooperative will make at least one telephone call attempt with the member of record or make one attempt at a personal contact with the member of record on the day prior to termination of service.

Please contact our office at 1-800-748-7395 to make satisfactory payment arrangements if you are unable to pay your electric bill in a timely fashion.

Lyon-Coffey Holiday Office Closings

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

In observance of the holiday season, we will be closed on December 25 and again on January 1 to celebrate the new year.

May the warmth, joy, and peace of this holiday season be with you and yours now and throughout the year.